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CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, Foreign Division M

DATE: 11 April 1951

FROM : Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

SUBJECT: GENERAL—Operational

SPECIFIC—Comments of Matus CERNAK on the PRCHALA and DURCANSKY Parties

Reference: MGL-A-6064

1. The Special Connections section of ZIPPER has informed us that on 13 March 1951 the first meeting between representatives of the Sudeten German-Czech Federative Committee and an official representative of the Slovakian National Council (i.e., PRCHALA and Karol SIDOR movements) took place in the Hotel Gruenwald in Munich. Present were Dr. Rudolf LODGMAN von AUEN (representing the Sudeten Germans), Vladimír PEKELSKY (representing the PRCHALA group), Matus CERNAK (representing the SIDOR group), and Prince von THURN und TAXIS (representing the nineteenth century dream of a restoration to power of the aristocracy of the Hapsburg dynasty).

2. Most of the talking was apparently done by Matus CERNAK, former minister and ambassador of the independent Slovakian state. (CERNAK was arrested by the Americans in 1945 and handed over to the CSR. A co-defendant in the trial of TISO, he was sentenced to a long term at hard labor but escaped to Bavaria in 1948. Now living at Munich 13, Friedrichstrasse 21/II (telephone 336 14), CERNAK is Karol SIDOR's representative for Western Germany.) The points made by CERNAK are herewith briefly summarized:

a. The entire Slovakian emigration numbers between 40,000 and 50,000; of this total, some 2,500 live in Western Germany (almost exclusively in Bavaria).

b. Since the deaths of TISO and HLINKA, the joint leaders of this emigration have been Dr. Karol SIDOR and Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY. They have connections with the Vatican, with Europe, and with South America.

c. The primary opposition to SIDOR-DURCANSKY stems from the weakening Council of Free Czechoslovakia. Within this movement "the greatest enemy of the Slovakian emigration" is retired Ambassador (Fnu) OSUSKY. The official circles in the USA, however, and especially the Council of Free Europe, which is close to the State Department, pay more attention to the Council of Free Czechoslovakia than to "the true representatives of the Slovakian people". (CERNAK also condemns the Council of Free Europe on the grounds that it is an adjunct of the Free Masons, a dark plot in which a leading role is played by "the polar explorer, Admiral BYRD".)

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d. CERNAK further claimed to have been commissioned by SIDOR and DURCANSKY to inform the others present and the groups which they represented that "the SIDOR-DURCANSKY" party is prepared to cooperate with the Sudeten Germans and the PRCHALA people on a friendly and unofficial basis. To secure official cooperation, Von AUEN and PRCHALA would have to demonstrate that they really represent the whole of the population in the Danube area (including, for example, Hungary).

e. A principal goal to be reached by such cooperation, according to CERNAK, is to inform the West, and particularly the USA, of the facts of Slovakian life. America, he roundly asserted, is now "allowing itself to be advised on Slovakian affairs by people who were until 1948 the betrayers of democracy and the West, who are known and distrusted as betrayers in Slovakia today, and whose present unexpected 'cooperation' with the West is injurious to the West."

f. CERNAK cited as a specific illustration of the above generalization the present composition of the Czechoslovakian panel of Radio Free Europe, located at Holzkirchen, near Munich. This panel, asserted CERNAK, was appointed by Emil PEROUKKA (former editor of the RENNES paper Modry Noviny) and consists of (fnu) TIGRID, (fnu) ZAK, Dr. (fnu) DENEK, Otto GRAF, (fnu) STRANSKY, and a former Czech actor and writer named (fnu) SNIZEK. These men "have long been known to the Slovakian people as traitors"; and the Council of Free Europe "is . . . exclusively a servant of the Jews and the Free Masons".

g. CERNAK concluded by saying that he would write a summary of his views and by asking PEKELSKY to make use of his personal acquaintanceship with the American Land Commissioner for Bavaria, Professor SHUSTER, by signing the summary jointly with CERNAK and transmitting it to SHUSTER.

3. WEBER was asked about CERNAK and described him as a thorough-going opportunist. WEBER vehemently rejected CERNAK's assertion that SIDOR and DURCANSKY were the twin leaders of a united movement. On the contrary, said WEBER, DURCANSKY will not compromise with his ideal of an independent and sovereign Slovakia. He admitted that as late as March 1951 there were meetings in New York between SIDOR and DURCANSKY, who attempted to find an area of agreement, but he claimed that the purpose of the meeting had not been achieved.

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